

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. The following remarks are responsive to the Office Action mailed February 11, 2004.

### **Objections to the Drawings**

The drawings are objected to for failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84 (p) (5), because they lack various references included in the "Detailed Description" of the Application. Figure 1 appears to have been mistakenly filed with the Application, as it also includes other errors such as "Prior Art" in the drawing. This is a mistake on the part of Applicant and in no way is an admission that Figure 1 is prior art. Therefore, Applicant has submitted herewith an updated version of Figure 1, as well as updated Figures 2, 3, 5, and 6, which now include figure titles.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that all objections in the Office Action pertaining to the drawings have been overcome and the drawings are now in compliance with 37 CFR 1.84 (p) (5).

### **Objections to the Specification**

The specification is objected to for various informalities, including those related to Figure 1, a corrected version for which is being submitted herewith. Accordingly, objections relating to Figure 1 in the specification have been corrected in the updated version of Figure 1.

The specification is also objected to for referring to Figure 4, while Figure 4 is not included in the drawings. Accordingly, any reference to Figure 4 has been deleted from

the specification. In correcting these mistakes, no new matter has been added to the specification.

### **Claim Objections**

Claims 1-29 are objected to under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1 and 10 are objected to for failing to describe how to program the masked control value into the control register. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 10 to reflect that the masked control value is stored into the register. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the objection to claims 1 and 10 has been overcome.

Claims 2 and 11 are objected to for failing to define the relationship between a control mask and a memory image. Applicant has amended claims 2 and 11 to reflect that the operation described in these claims are operations included in the method claimed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the objection to claims 2 and 11 has been overcome.

Claims 4, 5, 6 and 14 were rejected for similar reasons as claims 2 and 11. Claims 4, 5, 6, and 14 have been amended in a similar manner as claims 2 and 11. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the objection to claims 4, 5, 6, and 14 has been overcome.

Claim 8 was rejected for not clearly defining what "it" refers to. Claim 8 has been amended to remove the term "it". Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the objection to claim 8 is overcome.

Claim 19 was rejected for not clearly defining how a register could provide a plurality of functions. Claim 19 has been amended to reflect that the bits of the register correspond to a plurality of functions. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the objection to claim 19 has been overcome.

Claim 29 was rejected as lacking antecedent basis in the term “at least one mask storage area”. Claim 29 has been amended to remove the phrase “at least one” from “at least one mask storage area”. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the objection to claim 29 has been overcome.

### **Claim Rejections**

Claims 1-6, 10-15, 19-21, and 23-26 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,247,117 (hereafter “Juffa”).

Claims 1, 10, 19 and 25 have been amended to include the limitations recited in claims 7 and 16 while claims 7 and 16 have been canceled. The Office Action states that claims 7-9 and 16-18 would be allowable if the objections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, were overcome. Applicant has amended these claims to the extent that they were objected to above. Accordingly, claims 1, 10, 19, and 25, which now contain the limitations included in claims 7 and 16, as well as the claims depending from claims 1, 10, 19, and 25 should be in condition for allowance.

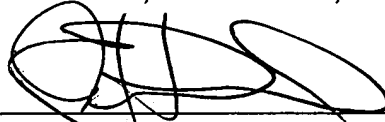
Claims 22, 27-29 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Juffa. As indicated above, claim 19 and 25 have been amended to include limitations of claims 7 and 16, which were not rejected under 35 USC 103(a). Accordingly, claims 19

and 25 as amended are in condition for allowance, and therefore dependent claims 22 and 27-29 are similar in condition for allowance.

It is respectfully asserted by Applicant that all presently standing claims are now in condition for allowance. Please charge any additional fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Hartounian', is written over a horizontal line.

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